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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 /073 W
---------- 118415
R 171432Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2471
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1255

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XH GR TU
SUBJ: MEETING OF BALKAN COUNTRIES

REF: (A) ATHENS 1184 (B) ATHENS 1262 (C) BUCHAREST 0798
(D) SOFIA 0317

SUMMARY: IN BRIEFING EMBOFF, MFA OFFICER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE BALKAN CONFERENCE HELD AT ATHENS FROM JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 5. HE SAID FIVE BALKAN COUNTRIES HAD MADE FIRST STEP TOWARD "REALISTIC" COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS. NO DEFINITE DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR NEXT CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. MEHMET EZEN, HEAD OF BALKAN AFFAIRS, DEPT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MFA, WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE, SAID THAT CONFERENC
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HAD SUCCEEDED IN ALLEVIATING INITIAL TURKISH CONCERNS. SPECIFICALLY, (1) TURKS HAD GONE TO CONFERENCE DETERMINED TO EXCLUDE ANY BILATERAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS FROM BEING RAISED AT THE MULTILATERAL FORUM AND,
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(2) TURKS WERE WILLING TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT FOR EVERY PROPOSAL MADE

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BY THE CONFERENCE IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS. WHILE WE UNDERSTOOD THAT TURKS HAD BEEN INITIALLY CONCERNED WHEN ACCEPTING THE INVITATION THAT THE GREEKS MIGHT USE THE CONFERENCE TO RAISE BI-LATERAL ISSUES ON CYPRUS, FIR OR THE AEGEAN, THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. EZEN SAID THE GREEKS AS WELL AS THE OTHER THREE COUNTRIES ONLY TABLED PROPOSALS OF AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL NATURE THAT WERE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED. THIS GAVE TUR-KEY THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH IT SEIZED OF BEING GENUINELY SUPPORTIVE IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AREA.

2. EZEN CONFIRMED THAT GREECE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF BRIEFING ALBANIA ON THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. HE STRESSED THAT TURKEY HOPED ALBAIA WOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN IN ANY FUTURE CONFERENCE.

3. EZEN WAS VAGUE ON DATE FOR FUTURE CONFERENCE AND HOW AND WHERE IT WOULD BE CONVENED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SOME COUN-TRIES MAY NEED MORE TIME THAN OTHERS TO STUDY GENERAL PROPOSALS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. HE EVADED QUESTION OF HOW FUTURE CONFERENCE WOULD BE CALLED, SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND SAID, "BUL-GARIA, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD DECIDE TO ASK NEXT CONFERENCE TO MEET IN SOFIA IF C WANTED."

4. EZEN REFUSED TO COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON ROLE BULGARIANS PLAYED IN CONFERENCE. WHEN ASKED EXTENT OF BULGARIAN FREEDON TO COOPERATE, EZEN MOVED ON TO THEME OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND LACK OF TOTAL SOVEREIGNTY OF ANY COUNTRY. EVEN IF "BULGARIA HAD ONLY 10 PERCENT TOTAL INDEPENDENCE", IT COULD COOPERATE TO THAT EXTENT IN AREA OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL AFFAIRS WITH REST OF BALKAN COUNTRIES, HE SAID.
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